

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 18 are now pending in this application and are independent. Claims 4-6 and 15-17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 7 and 18 were indicated as being allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of May 14, 2009. During the interview, Applicants' representative requested confirmation that Claims 7 and 18 would remain allowable if the rejected claims were cancelled. The Examiner advised that he would update his search as a matter of course, but in the event better prior art was not found, the case would be allowed. The Examiner also agreed to contact the undersigned should any issues arise after the search is updated.

Claims 4-6 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since Claims 4-6 and 15-17 have been cancelled, these rejections are deemed moot. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark A. Williamson/

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